

## Contract for Employee Benefits Brokerage/Consulting

This contract is dated, made, and entered into as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2014, by the City of Durham ("City"), a N.C. municipal corporation, and Independent Benefit Advisors ("Contractor"), a privately held firm incorporated in North Carolina in 2005.

Section 1. Background and Purpose. Assist the City of Durham with strategically planning, designing and negotiating the best coverage and cost for selective employee benefit programs. Serve as a business partners in implementing employee benefit coverage programs. These programs will be available to all City of Durham eligible employees, spouses, children, retirees and elected officials. The City of Durham has approximately 2600 full-time employees.

Section 2. Services and Scope to be Performed. The Contractor shall perform all of the services and honor all the commitments listed in the Proposal for Brokerage Services including but not limited to:

- a) Audit resulting contracts for accuracy of coverage, terms, and conditions
- b) Make fact based presentations to management on current state of benefit plans and recommended changes
- c) Assist with annual benefits renewals, including negotiation of changes in contracts
- d) When employee benefits are marketed, prepare bid specifications, identify appropriate markets, analyze proposals submitted, make recommendations, and assist in negotiation of (preferably multi-year) contracts.
- e) Annual review of selected employee benefit package for quality of benefits provided, cost effectiveness, competitiveness, and plan administration
- f) Monitor ongoing contracts, including provider plan administration, provider compliance with contract, and incurred claims
- g) Provide an on-line tool for employees to make and maintain open enrollment elections and off-cycle changes
- h) Assist in the development of Open Enrollment employee booklet to include paying for all printing costs
  - a. The open enrollment period is scheduled for approximately a 30 day period in June/July of each year with a coverage effective date of September 1. Should a substantial need arise, open enrollment may be reopened, but in no case will the open enrollment extend beyond August 31. The City shall be the sole determinant of the need for reopening or extending the open enrollment period
- i) Provide information on employee benefit issues, trends and proposed or new legislation
- j) Be available to meet with the City of Durham management as needed
- k) Assist in the design of employee benefits communications. Participate, as needed, in Benefit Fairs and annual enrollment process
- l) Provide a key contact person to be available to answer questions and resolve issues that arise during the year regarding employee benefits, contract administration, and service provisions
- m) Evaluate various insurance products submitted by carriers, agents and brokers
- n) Notify City of Durham of required legal notices and assist in preparation of stated notices
- o) Perform other relation consultation services as needed or requested

In this contract, "work" means the services that the Contractor is required to perform pursuant to this contract and all of the Contractor's duties to the City that arise out of this contract. Unless

the context requires otherwise, if the contract states that a task is to be performed or that a duty is owed, it shall be presumed that the task or duty if the obligation of the Contractor.

Section 3. Reserved.

Section 4. Complete Work without Extra Cost. Except to the extent otherwise specifically stated in this contract, the Contractor shall obtain and provide, without additional cost to the City, all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, facilities, services, permits, and licenses necessary to perform the Work.

Section 5. Compensation. The Contractor shall send invoices to the City on a monthly basis for the amounts to be paid pursuant to this contract. Each invoice shall document, to the reasonable satisfaction of the City such as may be reasonably requested by the City. Within twenty days after the City receives an invoice, the City shall send the Contractor a check (or wire funds) in payment for all undisputed amounts contained in the invoice.

Section 6. Prompt Payment to Subcontractors. (a) Within 7 days of receipt by the Contractor of each payment from the City under this contract, the Contractor shall pay all Subcontractors (which term includes subconsultants and suppliers) based on work completed or service provided under the subcontract. Should any payment to the Subcontractor be delayed by more than 7 days after receipt of payment by the Contractor from the City under this contract, the Contractor shall pay the Subcontractor interest, beginning on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof on such unpaid balance as may be due. By appropriate litigation, Subcontractors shall have the right to enforce this subsection (a) directly against the Contractor, but not against the City of Durham.

(b) If the individual assigned to administer this contract for the City (in this section, titled "Prompt Payment to Subcontractors," he or she will be referred to as the "Project Manager") determines that it is appropriate to enforce subsection (a) in this manner, the City may withhold from progress or final payments to the Contractor the sums estimated by the Project Manager to be

- (i) the amount of interest due to the Subcontractor under subsection (a), and/or
- (ii) the amounts past-due under subsection (a) to the Subcontractor but not exceeding 5% of the payment(s) due from the City to the Contractor.

This subsection (b) does not limit any other rights to withhold payments that the City may have.

(c) Nothing in this section (titled "Prompt Payment to Subcontractors") shall prevent the Contractor at the time of invoicing, application, and certification to the City from withholding invoicing, application, and certification to the City for payment to the Subcontractor for unsatisfactory job progress; defective goods, services, or construction not remedied; disputed work; third-party claims filed or reasonable evidence that such a claim will be filed; failure of the subcontractor to make timely payments for labor, equipment, and materials; damage to the Contractor or another subcontractor; reasonable evidence that the subcontract cannot be completed for the unpaid balance of the subcontract sum; or a reasonable amount for retainage not to exceed 10%.

(d) The Project Manager may require, as a prerequisite to making progress or final payments, that the Contractor provide statements from any Subcontractors designated by the Project Manager regarding the status of their accounts with the Contractor. The statements shall be in such format as

the Project Manager reasonably requires, including notarization if so specified.

Section 7. Insurance. Independent Benefits Advisors, Inc. shall maintain insurance not less than the following:

Commercial General Liability, covering

- broad form coverage, and in particular, coverage for personal injury, including but not limited to libel, slander, and defamation;
- contractual liability;
- Independent contractors, if any are used in the performance of this contract;
- City of Durham must be named additional insured, and an original of the endorsement to effect the coverage must be attached to the certificate (if by blanket endorsement, then agent may so indicate in the GL section of the certificate, in lieu of an original endorsement);
- combined single limit not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

Workers' Compensation Insurance, covering

- Statutory benefits;
- Covering employees; covering owners partners, officers, and relatives (who work on this contract)(this must be stated on your certificate)
- Employers' liability, any amount.

Insurance shall be provided by:

- Companies authorized to do business in the State of North Carolina
- Companies with Best rating of A or better

Insurance shall be evidenced by a certificate:

- Providing notice to the city of not less than 30 days prior to cancellation or reduction of coverage

Certificates shall be addressed to:

City of Durham

Attention: Benefits Manager

Human Resources Department

101 City Hall Plaza

Durham, NC 27701

Both the insurance certificate and the additional insured endorsement must be originals and must be approved by the City's Finance director before Contractor can begin any work under this contract.

Sec. 8. Performance of Work by City. If the Contractor fails to perform the Work in accordance with the schedule referred to in section above, the City may, in its discretion, in order to bring the project closer to the schedule, perform or cause to be performed some or all of the Work, and doing so shall not waive any of the City's rights and remedies. Before doing so, the City shall give the Contractor notice of its intention. The Contractor shall reimburse the City for additional costs incurred by the City in exercising its right to perform or cause to be performed some or all of the Work pursuant to this section.

Sec. 9. Exhibits. The following exhibits are made a part of this contract:

No exhibits identified

Sec. 10. Notice. (a) All notices and other communications required or permitted by this contract shall be in writing and shall be given either by personal delivery, fax, UPS, Federal Express, or certified United States mail, return receipt requested, addressed as follows. The parties are requested to send a copy by email.

To the City:

Michele Cash  
Human Resources Department  
City of Durham  
101 City Hall Plaza, Suite 1600  
Durham, NC 27701-3329  
Fax number is (919)560-4969  
Email: Michele.cash@durhamnc.gov

To the Contractor:

Independent Benefit Advisors, Inc.  
John Gasiorowski, President  
1121 Pemberton Hill Road  
Apex, NC 27502  
Fax number is (919)303-9691  
Email: [john@thebenefitadvisors.com](mailto:john@thebenefitadvisors.com)

(b) Change of Address. Date Notice Deemed Given. A change of address, fax number, or person to receive notice may be made by either party by notice given to the other party. Any notice or other communication under this contract shall be deemed given and sent at the time of actual delivery, if it is personally delivered or sent by fax. If the notice or other communication is sent by United States mail, it shall be deemed given upon the third calendar day following the day on which such notice or other communication is deposited with the United States Postal Service or upon actual delivery, whichever first occurs.

Sec. 11. Indemnification. (a) To the maximum extent allowed by law, the Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and save harmless Indemnitees from and against all Charges that arise in any manner from, in connection with, or out of this contract as a result of acts or omissions of the Contractor or subcontractors or anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable. In performing its duties under this subsection "a," the Contractor shall at its sole expense defend Indemnitees with legal counsel reasonably acceptable to City. (b) Definitions. As used in subsections "a" above and "c" below -- "Charges" means claims, judgments, costs, damages, losses, demands, liabilities, duties, obligations, fines, penalties, royalties, settlements, and expenses (included without limitation within "Charges" are (1) interest and reasonable attorneys' fees assessed as part of any such item, and (2) amounts for alleged violations of sedimentation pollution, erosion control, pollution, or other environmental laws, regulations, ordinances, rules, or

orders -- including but not limited to any such alleged violation that arises out of the handling, transportation, deposit, or delivery of the items that are the subject of this contract). "Indemnitees" means City and its officers, officials, independent contractors, agents, and employees, excluding the Contractor. (c) Other Provisions Separate. Nothing in this section shall affect any warranties in favor of the City that are otherwise provided in or arise out of this contract. This section is in addition to and shall be construed separately from any other indemnification provisions that may be in this contract. (d) Survival. This section shall remain in force despite termination of this contract (whether by expiration of the term or otherwise) and termination of the services of the Contractor under this contract. (e) Limitations of the Contractor's Obligation. If this section is in, or is in connection with, a contract relative to the design, planning, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of a building, structure, highway, road, appurtenance or appliance, including moving, demolition and excavating connected therewith, then subsection "a" above shall not require the Contractor to indemnify or hold harmless Indemnitees against liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damage to property proximately caused by or resulting from the negligence, in whole or in part, of Indemnitees.

Sec. 12. E-Verify Compliance. The contractor represents and covenants that the contractor and its subcontractors comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS). In this E-Verify Compliance section, "contractor," "its subcontractors," and "comply" shall have the meanings intended by NCGS 160A-20.1(b). The City is relying on this section in entering into this contract. The parties agree to this section only to the extent authorized by law. If this section is held to be unenforceable or invalid in whole or in part, it shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to make this contract comply with NCGS 160A-20.1(b).

Sec. 13. Miscellaneous

(a) Choice of Law and Forum; Service of Process. (i) This contract shall be deemed made in Durham County, North Carolina. This contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of North Carolina. The exclusive forum and venue for all actions arising out of this contract shall be the North Carolina General Court of Justice, in Durham County. Such actions shall neither be commenced in nor removed to federal court. This subsection (a) shall not apply to subsequent actions to enforce a judgment entered in actions heard pursuant to this subsection. (ii) If the Contractor is not a natural person (for instance, the Contractor is a corporation or limited liability company), this subsection (ii) applies. "Agent for Service of Process" means every person now or hereafter appointed by the Contractor to be served or to accept service of process in any State of the United States. Without excluding any other method of service authorized by law, the Contractor agrees that every Agent for Service of Process is designated as its non-exclusive agent for service of process, summons, and complaint. The Contractor will instruct each Agent for Service of Process that after such agent receives the process, summons, or complaint, such agent shall promptly send it to the Contractor. This subsection (ii) does not apply while the Contractor maintains a registered agent in North Carolina with the office of the N. C. Secretary of State and such registered agent can be found with due diligence at the registered office.

(b) Waiver. No action or failure to act by the City shall constitute a waiver of any of its rights or

remedies that arise out of this contract, nor shall such action or failure to act constitute approval of or acquiescence in a breach thereunder, except as may be specifically agreed in writing.

(c) Performance of Government Functions. Nothing contained in this contract shall be deemed or construed so as to in any way estop, limit, or impair the City from exercising or performing any regulatory, policing, legislative, governmental, or other powers or functions.

(d) Severability. If any provision of this contract shall be unenforceable, the remainder of this contract shall be enforceable to the extent permitted by law.

(e) Assignment. Successors and Assigns. Without the City's written consent, the Contractor shall not assign (which includes to delegate) any of its rights (including the right to payment) or duties that arise out of this contract. The City Manager may consent to an assignment without action by the City Council. Unless the City otherwise agrees in writing, the Contractor and all assignees shall be subject to all of the City's defenses and shall be liable for all of the Contractor's duties that arise out of this contract and all of the City's claims that arise out of this contract. Without granting the Contractor the right to assign, it is agreed that the duties of the Contractor that arise out of this contract shall be binding upon it and its heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns.

(f) Compliance with Law. In performing all of the Work, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable law.

(g) Notice of City Policy. THE CITY OPPOSES DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE AND SEX AND URGES ALL OF ITS CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY FOR MINORITIES AND WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR WORK FORCE AND AS SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS UNDER CITY CONTRACTS.

(h) EEO Provisions. During the performance of this Contract the Contractor agrees as follows: (1) The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation or belief, age, or handicap. The Contractor shall take affirmative action to insure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated equally during employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation or belief, age, or handicap. Such action shall include but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment or advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth these EEO provisions. (2) The Contractor shall in all solicitations or advertisement for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation or belief, age, or handicap. (3) The Contractor shall send a copy of the EEO provisions to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding. (4) In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with these EEO provisions, the City may cancel, terminate, or suspend this contract, in whole or in part, and the City may declare the Contractor ineligible for further City contracts. (5) Unless exempted by the City Council of the City of Durham, the Contractor shall include these EEO provisions in every purchase order for goods

to be used in performing this contract and in every subcontract related to this contract so that these EEO provisions will be binding upon such subcontractors and vendors.

(i) SDBE. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable provisions of Article III of Chapter 18 of the Durham City Code (Equal Business Opportunities Ordinance), as amended from time to time. The failure of the Contractor to comply with that article shall be a material breach of contract which may result in the rescission or termination of this contract and/or other appropriate remedies in accordance with the provisions of that article, this contract, and State law. The Participation Plan submitted in accordance with that article is binding on the Contractor. Section 18-59(f) of that article provides, in part, "If the City Manager determines that the Contractor has failed to comply with the provisions of the Contract, the City Manager shall notify the Contractor in writing of the deficiencies. The Contractor shall have 14 days, or such time as specified in the Contract, to cure the deficiencies or establish that there are no deficiencies." It is stipulated and agreed that those two quoted sentences apply only to the Contractor's alleged violations of its obligations under Article III of Chapter 18 and not to the Contractor's alleged violations of other obligations.

(j) No Third Party Rights Created. This contract is intended for the benefit of the City and the Contractor and not any other person.

(k) Principles of Interpretation and Definitions. (1) The singular includes the plural and the plural the singular. The pronouns "it" and "its" include the masculine and feminine. References to statutes or regulations include all statutory or regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, or replacing the statute or regulation. References to contracts and agreements shall be deemed to include all amendments to them. The words "include," "including," etc. mean include, including, etc. without limitation. (2) References to a "Section" or "section" shall mean a section of this contract. (3) "Contract" and "Agreement," whether or not capitalized, refer to this instrument. (4) "Duties" includes obligations. (5) The word "person" includes natural persons, firms, companies, associations, partnerships, trusts, corporations, governmental agencies and units, and other legal entities. (6) The word "shall" is mandatory. (7) The word "day" means calendar day. (8) The word "Work" is defined in Section 2. (9) A definition in this contract will not apply to the extent the context requires otherwise.

(l) Modifications. Entire Agreement. A modification of this contract is not valid unless signed by both parties and otherwise in accordance with requirements of law. Further, a modification is not enforceable against the City unless it is signed by the City Manager, a deputy or assistant City Manager, or, in limited circumstances, a City department director. This contract contains the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter of this contract. With respect to that subject matter, there are no promises, agreements, conditions, inducements, warranties, or understandings, written or oral, expressed or implied, between the parties, other than as set forth or referenced in this contract.

(m) City's Manager's Authority. To the extent, if any, the City has the power to suspend or terminate this contract or the Contractor's services under this contract, that power may be exercised by City Manager or a deputy or assistant City Manager without City Council action.

Sec. 14. Termination for Convenience ("TFC"). (a) *Procedure*. Without limiting any party's right to terminate for breach, the parties agree that the City may, without cause, and in its discretion, terminate this contract for convenience by giving the Contractor written notice that refers to this section. TFC shall be effective at the time indicated in the notice. (b) *Obligations*. Upon TFC, all obligations that are still executory on both sides are discharged except that any right based on prior breach or performance survives, and the indemnification provisions and the section of this contract titled Trade Secrets and Confidentiality, if any, shall remain in force. At the time of TFC or as soon afterwards as is practical, the Contractor shall give the City all Work, including partly completed Work. In case of TFC, the Contractor shall follow the City's instructions as to which subcontracts to terminate. (c) *Payment*. The City shall pay the Contractor an equitable amount for the costs and charges that accrue because of the City's decisions with respect to the subcontracts, but excluding profit for the Contractor. Within 20 days after TFC, the City shall pay the Contractor one hundred dollars as a TFC fee and shall pay the Contractor for all Work performed except to the extent previously paid for. Work shall be paid for in accordance with the method (unit prices, hourly fees, etc.) to be used for payment had the Work been completed except to the extent it would be inequitable to either party, and if Work was to be paid for on a lump-sum basis, the City shall pay the part of the lump sum that reflects the percentage of completion attained for that Work. The Contractor shall not be entitled to any payment because of TFC except as stated in this section, whether on the basis of overhead, profit, damages, other economic loss, or otherwise.

Sec. 15. Trade Secrets; Confidentiality. The request for proposals (RFP) section titled "Trade Secrets and Confidentiality" shall apply to any Trade Secrets disclosed to the City during the process leading to the parties' entering into this Contract (including all of the Contractor's responses to the RFP). This section (titled "Trade Secrets; Confidentiality") shall remain in force despite termination of this contract (whether by expiration of the term or otherwise) and termination of the services of the Contractor under this contract. For purposes of this contract, the word "candidate" in the RFP section just cited shall mean the "Contractor."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the Contractor have caused this contract to be executed under seal themselves or by their respective duly authorized agents or officers.